

**INTERVIEWEE NAME: Benjamin Heber**  
**PHONE NUMBER: 515-290-6265**

Interviewer: Larry Wilson

Date: 03/27/02

**Bold Print is CCC Enrollee**

Entry Date: 1934 thru 1937

DNR: Today is Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002, and I am talking with Benjamin Heber in Waterloo. I'll get started by asking where your hometown was?

**Waterloo.**

DNR: How old were you when you enrolled in the CCC?

**I think I was 19.**

DNR: Ok. What did you do before you started with the C's Benjamin?

**Very little, looking for a job.**

DNR: Work was hard to find wasn't it. Did you have any kind of odd job that you did?

**No, yah I did. I think I worked for a farmer, I know I worked for a farmer and I even drove a beer truck around town for a while. They were awful paying jobs, 50 cents a day. (Laughter)**

DNR: Glad to get it though, huh. What camps were you assigned too?

**Well we left here and went to Riceville, Iowa by train and then they took us by truck over to Cresco.**

DNR: That is where you went the first time?

**Yah and we laid there for 3 or 4 weeks, they didn't know where to put us and finally they sent us over to Calmar, Iowa.**

DNR: Calmar

**Yes we dug, we worked at Sievers Springs near Decorah, and I don't know if you have you ever heard of that?**

DNR: Sure.

**Well, it's a hell of a big springs up there anyway we put the water works in for Calmar and we still had to put the holes where waterlines in.**

DNR: Did you go to any place after Calmar?

**Yah, we moved down to Boone and we built Ledges State Park.**

DNR: Ok that's right. So when you went from Cresco then down to Calmar then down to Boone was the whole camp transferred or just?

**The whole works. Lock stock and barrel. Tents junk and all, we stayed in tents all of the time until we got to Boone they were building the barracks down there, wooden barracks.**

DNR: Do you remember the year you went into the CCC's?

**In 34.**

DNR: That is pretty good memory. How about the first day in camp there Benjamin, what did they do? Did they give you stuff.

**There were about 180 guys all standing over you and everything was messed up and they were running around. Nobody knew what was going on saying you better go here and you better go there. Finally we got everything lined up and got our cots and our blankets and our pillows, extra clothing I guess at that time. And by the way that was World War I clothing they gave us. Can you believe that or not. And they gave us those trite pants you had to take your shoes off just to get your pants on.**

DNR: Did you take any personal items down there with you to Cresco?

**No they didn't want us too. They had their own stuff there, toothbrushes and if you had a watch you could take that but I didn't have anything. Some of the guys might have had them.**

DNR: About everybody that I talked too said they had nothing but the clothes on their back.

**That is about right.**

DNR: Were you assigned to a barracks or tents or what did you stay in?

**A tent.**

DNR: You stayed in tents up there in Cresco?

**Yah, I encountered both.**

DNR: Your grandson just gave me a coffee cup that's got the National Association of the CCC's on it. It says you are alumni. Have you been down to that place?

**No I never have but he has.**

DNR: Jefferson Barracks Historical Park in St. Louis.

Grandson: They have everyone's name that ever was in the CCC there.

DNR: That would be a place to go visit. So they were tents that you stayed in at Cresco.

**I think they were 24 tents. Big long tents and they had them on the side this way on the middle and they had one guy that was suppose to be the leader.**

DNR: Of the tent?

**He was the guy that was supposed to keep the guys in order. (Laughter) Can you imagine trying to keep 18 to 20 year old guys in order?**

DNR: He was the leader huh.

**Yah the leader. (Laughter)**

DNR: How about up at Boone what kind of?

**Oh same way, oh up to Boone we had barrack but they were wooden barracks, but they were same way as the tents were. And the guys were put up all alone the wall and in the back they had a special room and that where the leader put his stuff.**

DNR: How did they heat those barracks?  
**Old wooden stoves.**

DNR: Do you remember who any of the guys stayed with your bunk mates were?  
**Oh, a lot of them. I remember the leader that time was from Decorah himself his name was Alvin Moe. He is a hell of a nice guy.**

DNR: Decorah huh?  
**I believe that is where he was from. They say he bought a new car and then he got laid off and every time he got home he would back the car out of the garage and polish it up and drove it back in the garage. (Laughter) That was all the money he had.**

DNR: Remember any of the other guys?  
**Oh yah, there was Ray Cutler, Arthur Witt, Fay Considine and George Sullivan; he was one of the oldest of the Sullivan brothers. You know what I am talking about, the 5 Sullivan brothers. He was in the camp with us. He was a pretty good guy.**

DNR: Was that right? That is interesting.  
**Harlan Thompson, Dale Wendt, I don't know who all of them were.**

DNR: Did you know that Sullivan guy, that George?  
**Oh yah I went to school with him more or less. They call it middle school now, Junior High.**

DNR: How did you guys get along?  
**We got along pretty dam good.**

DNR: How was the food in the mess hall, how was that?  
**I remember that one time I don't know who it was but they gripped about the food and the Doctor in the camp he really got up and chewed their hind end out. He told them they truly had it a hell of a lot better eating here than at home so what the hell are beefing about. (Laughter)**

DNR: Probably right too?  
**Your right. (Laughter)**

DNR: Some people just got to complain.  
**Yah well sometime at 10 o'clock we would go down and steal a loaf of bread and toast it over the old wood heater it was a regular heater.**

DNR: Have a little toast before bed, huh?  
**Right before bed. (Laughter)**

Another guy was named Dandruff he was a truck driver I think he was from Sioux City. And he really like oysters every Friday night they would have oyster stew and your lucky if you could even see a oyster once in a while in the pot. And if you were lucky enough to get the oyster and you didn't like them you would give it to him, he really like them. I shouldn't say this but he would lay them on the table and he would spread him out all over.

DNR: Where was he from?

**Sioux City. I think that is where he was from. (Laughter)**

DNR: Thank you.

**And everybody couldn't stomach the oysters so they would hand them to him. (Laughter)**

DNR: Who did the cooking in the camp?

**Oh they had regular cooks a guy name Bill Anderson and one Vic Clark was the other one.**

DNR: You can remember those names pretty well, Benjamin.

**Bill Anderson he ran a little grocery store over here on Burton Ave after he was out and Victor Clark became an assemblyman over here at John Deere like a lot of them did. A lot of them went to John Deere.**

DNR: You mean after the C's and the service.

**Things started to booming in 35 and things started waking up here at John Deere.**

DNR: Were you ever at one of the camps over the holidays so you would know if the holiday meals were any different than the other ones?

**No I don't remember if I was there at a holiday or not.**

DNR: Ok

**See the only time we would get home if some of the guys had a car and there was a guy named Ernie Hopka and he had an open coop. He would hall 3 with him in the front with him and maybe 2 or 3 in the trunk for 50 cents from Boone to Waterloo. Roundtrip and that how we got to come home.**

DNR: What was his name?

**Ernie Hopka. Either that or we would stand down there by the Depot in Boone and when the freight train slowed down enough we would get on the tender on the engine. You know what I am talking about?**

DNR: Sure. You would hop the freight wouldn't you?

**You'd hope the freight to Marshalltown and we had to change trains down there to make our make to home.**

DNR: Kind of like taking the airlines now.

**Yah. (Laughter)**

DNR: How about payday, when was payday?

**Ah I think it was at the end of the month. I think my money went home.**

DNR: How much money did you make up there?

**\$30.00 a month and my Mother and Dad keep about 2/3 of it and they gave me the rest of it. So they gave me about \$10.00 of it.**

DNR: How did you spend your money?

**Oh I don't know, a little booze I guess and ice cream. They had a wonderful ice cream store down to Boone; they had a lot of malts and stuff like that.**

DNR: You said something earlier about getting some days off. Did you have weekends off? Could you go home on the weekends?

**Oh yah you could go home, I am not sure what days they would be but we had week-ends off I don't know if they were special holidays or what but the whole camp would be deserted. You didn't have to go, but I know 6 or 8 of those guys would jump the train and go to Waterloo. I am not sure where the rest of them went.**

DNR: So on Friday night or Saturday you could go home?

**Scatter out and go home, yah.**

DNR: What did you do when you got home?

**Raise hell.**

DNR: Raise hell with the boys?

**Yah, raised hell with the boys. (Laughter)**

DNR: How about Sundays in the camp, Benjamin were there any church services?

**Church services were on Sundays or you could go up town. I shouldn't tell you this but one guy, his name is Harry Elliott he was very religious and he kept after 4 or 5 of us to go to church with him. Yah will go next time, yah will go next time, finally we went on a Sunday night late evening anyway we were sitting there in the pew and Bill went, he was from Cedar Falls, and he went, "Oh Praise the Lord," and we got to giggling and laughing. And we were sitting around a bunch of old people and the gall dang preacher came out and asked us if we wanted to go up and sing in the choir. First time we were in the church. (Laughter)**

DNR: What was his name?

**The guy that got us to go up there he was Harry Elliott.**

DNR: He was the one that got us to go up there.

**There was a room about the size of here and there was about 10 or 12 of the guys. And there were folding chairs along wall and we had to pray before we went out and sang. And all of those suckers got a chair put their head on they didn't leave anything on the middle of the floor. (Laughter) They said what the hell are you guys doing. (Laughter)**

DNR: You went up there and prayed with him?

**Yah, we all went out and prayed before we went out to sing. We never went back to that church. (Laughter) Nothing against the church, oh God.**

DNR: Was there any sporting activities, basketball, and football stuff like that?

**I don't remember that at all. They had a recreation hall there with a pool table and stuff. But I don't know if they had any basketball.**

DNR: Do you remember playing any ball or anything or do you just remember playing at the rec. hall?

**Just went down to the rec. hall that is all we would do. Then we had a bunch of characters in there. We had one guy I will name him, his name was Leslie Gerholt I think. He wouldn't clean his mess kit up he would just come in and lay it on his bunk and it was green already with mold and he told somebody to open the door and he threw it right out in the street.**

**(Laughter)**

DNR: Did you have any personal conflict with any of those guys? Or did they have conflicts among themselves, the CCC? Like fights and arguments?

**No I don't believe there were any fights? If they did they were pretty well hidden.**

DNR: You don't recall any incidents of any fights that the officer had to go in and break up?

**I do know the officers we had to dress for the evening meal that was a sorry looking sight those old Army clothes on well like me I probably wore about a 32 maybe in them days. One guy wore a 45 waist and he would just pull put his belt out and pull it out with a big bulge and tight around the ankles and overcoats just drug the ground in the wintertime.**

DNR: That had to be a sight.

**Anyway this guy Ripley I will never forget him he was from Charles City he wore one of those old city caps, what the hell do you call them and anyway pulled it down over his ears cause it was cold and Arthur he chew his butt off for not dressing properly, "What the hell you doing here." (Laughter) Oh my God I tell you.**

DNR: Did anybody get in trouble up there at camp how would they get punished?

**I don't think anybody got in trouble. If they did they would keep it quiet you know what I mean.**

DNR: A lot of the guys that I talked too Benjamin have said the same thing, very little problems. Did you have any opportunities to take any classes or learn any trades or educational work?

**No, some of that stuff hadn't even gotten started yet I didn't think.**

DNR: You were in for how long, 11 months?

**Eleven months yah I was time I went into John Deere and got a job so I went back and quit.**

DNR: What were some of the jobs that you did when you were up there in the C's in Cresco, Calmar and Boone?

**Well in Cresco we didn't do nothing but walk for exercise cause there was no place to put us. In Calmar we all like I said dug the ditch and put the water system in but they did take some of the guys up to Sievers Springs and made fish ponds because they were going to raise fish up there you know, brood fish in there. I think they got 5 of them up there. I think they were 5 or 6 feet deep.**

DNR: The C's built those?

**Well, they did but we were only involved with at that time the first one when they told us to go down to Boone. And they dug it all out with a wheel borrow. There was no machinery except we borrowed a shovel.**

DNR: Well who was involved with those fishponds was that a State Fish Hatchery?

**I imagine the state government. They were going on a few years ago I believe they are raising bass up there. Then we went down to Boone.**

DNR: OK, that's at Decorah? And then you went down to Boone. What did you do down there?

**Well we built the Ledges State Park. Ok, we put the water system in and pit toilets there were no water or anything in there, in those days. Shelter houses and all the roadways and pathways and all of that stuff. I didn't get involved but there was a quarry out there and they got rock as big as this table or bigger than they could handle and they would take it up the creek and set it up this way so it looked like a rock side on it rather than dirt, so the water wouldn't wash the dirt away.**

DNR: Did you take part in building any of those shelters up there at Ledges?

**I got a shovel in; we hauled down to the river and with the right kind of gravel. All gravel and they put 13 guys on this gang to load this truck up and I don't think they were anything more than half-ton trucks in them days. In those days it was those old Chevrolet 32 trucks. And anyway we could load them up in about a minute, just took a couple shovels full.**

DNR: Did you get the sand out of the sandbar?

**Yah, we just got it out of the sandbar and we had to put a plank to drive back on so he wouldn't get stuck. They would dig out from under the plank and they would turn it over on the side for the other truck.**

DNR: What a mess? How did they get out?

**We just dug him out again.**

DNR: Jack him up put something under his wheels.

**He just lost another 10 minutes. (Laughter)**

DNR: Do you remember any of the guys you worked with?

**One guy was named Fivash, Lyle Fivash and Jack Fivashs brothers, Jack I don't know where he worked but Lyle worked with us in our group.**

DNR: What was the last name?

**Fivash, F-i-v-a-s-h and then we had a Beagle. Roseberry, he was a hard Indian, he was a character, and he was from South Dakota originally.**

DNR: How did you guys get along when you were out there on the work site?

**Oh we got along just swell. Hell, we laid on the gravel more than we ever done any work. Like I said there were enough guys in about a minute we could fill that truck up and then we had wait 10 or 15 minutes for another truck to show up.**

DNR: How many guys were shoveling gravel, 13?

**Yah, 13 guys most of the time.**

DNR: How did you get your work assignment every day, do you recall that?

**I don't remember how we got the assignment. They would just say you go with this bunch and you go with that bunch. I don't know how the assigned it too.**

DNR: Wherever they needed hands they just assigned them.

**Another thing we did I think that is the Iowa River?**

DNR: Down at Boone or Des Moines? Yes that is the Des Moines River.

**Yes at Des Moines, well we cut down some trees and dug a trench out the water and took cables and tied the trees down to the stump and let the tree fall into the water to make a wing dam out of it. We did some of that.**

DNR: A little bank protection.

**Yah, yah. And it threw the water along that carried some of that silt out of there. Yah, I remember one time we were down there we could hear the dogs a bellowing, wild dogs they were just a hollering in the timber there. And we would say the dogs are after the deer again and we heard some coming and one somebody said lets just set here by the path and see if they come this way and let the dogs have them. And by God that deer come up that path along the waterway in the river. It was a great big buck and he had his head down like this and horns laying down on his back like that and he was a moving. And here come the 5 or 6 dogs and they were just a bellowing we threw the shovels and picks and everything. (Laughter)**

DNR: Did you hit any of them?

**No, but we didn't hear the dogs anymore that day.**

DNR: You probably saved that deer's life.

**But do you know, and I am not kidding yah, just a little away from the riverbank there had been an old barb wire fence and it was all broke down from the years ago. And that deer come up he just lifted his legs up like that and he was on he other side.**

DNR: He crossed that before.

**He was familiar with that.**

DNR: When you were working on that job down there, especially at Boone and Ledges most of most of that work was done with trucks and shovels.

**Yep all of it was done with trucks and shovels.**

DNR: Was there any other specialized equipment like bulldozers or things like that, or just mostly hand stuff?

**No, I didn't see any. Yah, they would bring a hot lunch out to us at camp there.**

DNR: Would they?

**Ah huh.**

DNR: How was that? Pretty good wasn't it?

**Oh yah. There was one time in February that we laid around three weeks because it was icy and they had to go down the hill to get into the park and they didn't want to take us down there because it was dangerous you know running into the ditch. So the guys did about everything they could do to pass the time away. Some of them done some gambling, just penny Annie was all they played. One guy Scott Rowling, I didn't mention him yet he was from Cedar Falls we ran around here, and he won \$27.00 in pennies. So we took him up town and had malted milks and stuff. (Laughter)**

DNR: Where was he from, Cedar Falls?

**Cedar Falls, yah.**

DNR: You've got a pretty good memory of those guys.

**Well, see I knew a lot of those guys before I went to camp.**

DNR: And then after camp?

**Well I went to work at John Deere.**

DNR: Were some of them there?

**Oh yah, a lot of them worked there.**

DNR: Is that the plant I drove by when I came over here?

**Yah.**

DNR: How about the city kids and the country kids, Benjamin, did they get along?

**Oh yah there was no arguments.**

DNR: They got along and no differences between those two.

**I don't know if there were any country kids there, a lot of them were from Cedar Falls.**

DNR: Were there any minority groups in the camp, African Americans, Hispanics?

**No, not in them days. What they had there once in a great while was short arm inspection if you know what that is?**

DNR: Sure, was there any problem there?

**No, I don't think they caught anybody. Not that I have never heard of any or not.**

DNR: Do you feel like you picked up any specific skills while you were there in those camps?

**No, just learned how to run a shovel. (Laughter)**

DNR: Learned to work a shovel huh?

**Well I don't know its true or not but if you had small pox you would never get small pox again. Well I was suppose to have had small pox when I was 10 or 12 years old and anyway when we were down I the other camp. See there were two camps there in Boone and the other camp was suppose to have small pox and anyway they vaccinated all of them guys and then they came over and vaccinated all of us.**

DNR: Did you ever get small pox?

**No, I didn't and I think I was vaccination three times and mine never took hold. I told them I had had them and they didn't believe me and it never did work. The guys got sore arms like nobody's business.**

DNR: Was there any injuries at those camps did anybody get hurt?

**No. They didn't do enough work to get hurt. (Laughter)**

DNR: Did they have a Dr. there at the camp?

**Yah, one of the officers was a Doctor, he was from Hampton Iowa, I believe.**

DNR: Were you ever injured?

**No.**

DNR: Any disease, you said the small pox was?

**Well, I was only in one camp and so I didn't know what happened unless we heard, they were vaccinating us at our camp and no body got smallpox in our camp anyway.**

DNR: What about rodents and insects, rats' mice abnormal amounts?

**No, nothing like that only one goofball and he was in Calmar. Someone had a field trap with a groundhog or woodchuck in it and they took it out and let it heal and let it go in a pit. He felt sorry for that poor woodchuck. (Laughter)**

DNR: That was a different kind of pit wasn't it?

**Yah.**

DNR: Did you ever do any work outside of the camp when you were in the C's; in the community that was not Civilian Conservation Corp work?

**All I can remember is we went somewhere down by the mines near Boone I don't know where they were. When the camp was so new they put 2 x 4's along the street and filled it up with shale if you know what shale is?**

DNR: I sure do.

**They hauled that shale and we put it on the streets.**

DNR: Was that in the city or town of Boone City or on the Boone streets? That was all apart of the CCC work.

**As far as I know we never done anything out, other groups went out. You see they would take truckload of guys, 6 or 7 whatever they needed and haul them somewhere and they would do erosion work you know along with that. Working in the park building little dams.**

DNR: Did you ever do any of the soil erosion work?

**No I never got involved in it.**

DNR: You were at the Ledges park most of the time. When you were in the CCC's did you pick up any certain or specific skills?

**No, just how to work.**

DNR: How about any contacts in or around Boone?

**About women?**

DNR: Yah, I want to talk about women.

**A lot of the guys they found a girlfriend, I didn't, and some of the guys did and had girlfriends here in town. They would get together on the weekends.**

DNR: Did you have any contacts with any of the females during your stay at camp?

**No, no.**

DNR: Do you remember if there was any fellowship types of organizations like Elks, Odd fellows or any thing else?

**No. I spent a month or so in Cresco and a month or so in Calmar and I got out at 11 months. But that Boone camp was pretty new and they were still trying to get it going I don't think.**

DNR: Most of your time was spent in Boone you were in Cresco and Calmar about a month?

**Yah just a couple of months and then we shot over to Hampton Iowa and had a noon meal when we moved.**

DNR: How did they move you?

**With trucks from down there and the other guys camp up and helped. They had those Army cots with a real light mattress pad on them and a pillow and blanket or two oh you had your footlockers and stuff and that had to be moved.**

DNR: Do you still have your footlocker Benjamin?

**Yah, that's about ready to fall apart.**

DNR: Is that government issue?

**No.**

DNR: You took that from home or bought it?

**I bought it. See that would be 60 or 70 years old too.**

DNR: Yah, that was a long time ago. Were there any problems between the young men in the communities and the CCC's?

**Not that I know of either. I would say the boys in our camp and as far as I know ours was a well run camp and there was no trouble with the townspeople.**

DNR: How do you think the members of the camp felt about by the local community? What did the people in town think about you?

**Oh they put up with us, you know what I mean. Hell there was a lot of money coming in from the camp. These guys would spend a couple bucks a month you know and that was more money than they saw from anybody else. Like that ice cream parlor, hell we done more business with them than us than they did the whole damn town. If it wasn't for us..**

DNR: There wasn't any indication that the town didn't like the idea of the camp there?

**No you could go any where you wanted to go the shows or dances or whatever they had.**

DNR: Do you have any one most memorable experience when you were in the CCC's, Benjamin? Anything that stands out?

**Well some of the things were stupid things.**

DNR: Well that is all right we all do those?

**I will tell you one thing but I won't name the guy though because he moved pretty close to me afterwards but he wouldn't take a bath so 4 or 5 of him grabbed him and took him into the shower room and took his clothes off and hit him two or three times with those GI brushes and he broke away and ran into the Doctors office naked and oh god did we get reamed out that night. (Laughter)**

DNR: I have heard one or two stories like that about guys not getting cleaned up and give them a brushing down.

**(Laughter) The Doctor said that was a pretty rough way of going after them.**

DNR: Anything happen to you in the camp you thought that was really strange or odd?

**No I think things went along pretty damn good. We were a bunch of well-behaved boys.**

DNR: What do you feel you gained or accomplishments in the camp and how your life changed by being there?

**Well really I don't know of any changes, we all had to learn to work for your money and you had to work they didn't hand it out to you that is for sure. It wasn't much but it was something.**

DNR: What did you do after you left the CCC's Benjamin?

**Went to work at John Deere's. The 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1935 and I worked there until June of 1973. I worked there 38 years at John Deere.**

DNR: He can remember that stuff. Now you are the 18<sup>th</sup> guy that I talked to that remembered more of those people that he was with and talked to and more of the people he was with than any of the others.

**Who have you talked to up around here?**

DNR: No I haven't talked to anyone up here. The closest one that I have talked to is a guy down at Marshalltown by the name of Fritz, Martin Fritz he is 92. How old are you Benjamin?

**I am 87. All of the guys that I run around before with at camp are dead. They are all dead and gone. I got a big recommendation from one of the commanding officers when I left camp. He did tell me you take those 4 or 5 guys and do this and that, I didn't get paid for it but I did it and when I got home I got this big letter of recommendation when I got out. I think his name was Kotrich I believe it was.**

DNR: Spell that again.

**I think it was K O T R I C H.**

DNR: Do you remember his first name?

**No, I don't he was a commanding officer in the service or regular Army or whatever the hell he was.**

DNR: Was that at Boone?

**Yah, I got that at Boone when I quit. He was originally from Minneapolis that was his hometown I believe now I was telling you thing that might not exactly be true but I thought that personally for years. I can't understand I never did hear from my other good buddies I had 5 or 6 buddies I ran around with in town that went to service when I did. And I never did hear of any of them guys ever getting a letter like that.**

DNR: You must have been a pretty good performer.

**Oh God I must have been.**

DNR: Well you were in there for 11 months most of that time was done at Boone, right?

**Oh yah.**

DNR: And when did you say you went in?

**Oh June I think. I don't remember just what day the day was.**

DNR: June 34<sup>th</sup>?

**Yah and I got out in 35. I guess that is 9 months. We thought we were abused naturally but we had a hell of a lot of fun. (Laughter)**

DNR: What would they do in the morning when they would get you up?

**Well you get dressed and everything.**

DNR: How did they wake you up? Blow a whistle or a bugle?

**You woke up yourself. You had to be there at breakfast and if you weren't there you wouldn't get anything to eat until dinnertime. They wouldn't serve any between meals. (Laughter)**

DNR: Did the take you out on the parade grounds for inspection or anything like that can you remember that?

**Only this Kotrich, he started that dressing up at supertime before we went into eat. We had to dress; he called us a bunch of sorry looking bunch of guys. (Laughter)**

DNR: Those old World War I uniforms didn't help.

**See a lot of guy well I did too later on. We would take those pants home and split them on the seam then put a v shape in there and that is when the bell bottoms stuff started. You remember that year ago.**

DNR: Oh sure. Sure I do.

**Yah they made pretty nice pants, they wore real good and were nice and warm. Well I was going to tell yah this one guy he went to work at Deere's and got canned because he went to sleep on the job. But anyway he ran a tavern up at Cresco.**

DNR Transcriber: (The foot locker was brought up from the basement by a relative and the following is a discussion of what is in it.)

**Grandson: Here are some of the leggings he used that were from the WW I, and that recommendation that he was talking about.**

DNR: Well I will be darn. Isn't that something? Those are his employment paper and his certificate of discharge. You went out on March 11 of 1935.

**Was that what it was?**

DNR: Yes March 11 of 1935. Yah you got a paper that said you served in the Civilian Conservation Corp that magnificent army of youth and peace that was put into action the awakening of the people to the facts of conservation recreation, and that with all honors completed your turn on March 11 at Boone. That is the first one I have seen for the record. What I am looking at here is a piece of paper issued that is to Ben G. Heber. Benjamin fellow whom I am talking too, and it the first one I have seen and just read it is an acknowledge that he served his country well as a member of the Civilian Conservation Army Corp and is signed by the camp superintendent, the company commander, director of the Emergency Conservation work and the Director of the National Parks Service. And I have also a copy.

**Who was that guy?**

DNR: Who?

**That signed that.**

DNR: Well, There were four. Camp Superintendent, Strandler and that is a tough one to read. You just told me the one guy there, Kotrich he was the company commander. You knew that. **I knew I had that right but I didn't remember all of the others.**

DNR: Ok, you went in on July 16 1934, I will be darn, ok. You were up to Cresco and then to Calmar and then you were down at Boone. And they said you were very good character.

**Well, sure. Well you learned a little bit today.**

DNR: Well I sure did. I want to look at these leggings here. Your grandson brought them up.

**I don't think they were from the CCC's.**

DNR: Well don't you think they would have issued those to you?

**No I don't think so.**

DNR: Well I see pictures of those CCC guys wearing them.

**Well, I could have to but they weren't an issued item and I probably did wear them in parades.**

DNR: Well you keep those baggy pants tied up in there.

**Yah.**

DNR: What have you got there? Just a word about these papers Benjamin William, I know you have grandsons and children and they will probably have children that might want to keep that, sure but, never throw any of that stuff away. They will probably hand it down from generation to generation and that most of it was done. Never throw any of this in the trash can cause you have quite a bit of stuff there. That came all out the truck.

Grandson: Another big envelope, Company 2723 CCC this must have been business cards and stuff that he picked up.

DNR: What was the # on that? 2723 CCC Boone, IA.

DNR: Let me see it that an envelope from the C's. Yep 2723, ok. I want to stop the recorder and look at these papers. There was quite a collection of paper and memorabilia that you had while you were in the Corp. So that will conclude the interview with Benjamin Heber, time is 11:35.